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GENEVA FOR RMA, ROME ALSO FODAG

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PHUM, EAID, MOPS, RW
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SUBJECT: RECONNAISSANCE OF SOUTHEASTERN RWANDA TO BENACO
CAMP IN TANZANIA

1. ON 3 AUGUST AF POL-MIL OFFICER LTC TONY MARLEY, ACCOMPANIED BY PM/ISP COL DAN LAYTON TRAVELLED ROUND TRIP BY ROAD FROM KIGALI, THROUGH KIBUNGO, TO THE BENACO REFUGEE CAMP NEAR NGARA, TANZANIA. THE DISTANCE FROM KIGALI TO THE BORDER CROSSING IS APPROXIMATELY 100 MILES, WITH THE CAMP SOME 6-7 MILES INSIDE TANZANIA. THE ENTIRE ROUTE FROM KIGALI TO THE BORDER IS A WELL-ENGINEERED TWO LANE ASPHALT ROAD AND IS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

2. SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF RESIDENTS HAVE RETURNED TO THE COUNTRYSIDE BETWEEN KIGALI AND KIBUNGO, WORKING THEIR FIELDS, HERDING CATTLE, AND MARKETING THEIR PRODUCTS. THERE IS A GREATLY REDUCED NUMBER OF RESIDENTS IN THE AREA BETWEEN KIBUNGO AND NYAKARAMBI. AND VIRTUALLY NO ONE IN

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THE RURAL AREAS BETWEEN NYAKARAMBI AND THE FRONTIER. THERE ARE SMALL NUMBERS OF CIVILIANS RESIDENT IN RUDUMO, BUT NONE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE NEAR BY. THERE WERE ONLY AN ESTIMATED 150 REFUGEES MOVING NORTHWESTWARD IN THE ENTIRE DISTANCE FROM KIGALI TO THE BORDER, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE

SMALL CLUSTERS (50-60 PERSONS EACH) OF REFUGEES AT KIBUNGO AND NYAKARAMBI.

3. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY TWELVE VEHICULAR CHECKPOINTS OPERATED BY THE RWANDAN (RPF) ARMY BETWEEN KIGALI AND THE BORDER. THERE WAS LITTLE RPF PRESENCE NYAKARAMBI AND RUSUMO, AND ONLY 6 RPF SOLDIERS WERE VISIBLE AT THE BRIDGE/BORDER CROSSING ITSELF. THE PERSONNEL AT THE

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CHECKPOINTS BEHAVED PROFESSIONALLY AND POLITELY. THERE WERE NO REFUGEES OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHECKPOINTS SO THE PARTY COULD NOT ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE RPF WERE IN ANY WAY IMPEDING MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES.

4. KIBUNGO SUFFERED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE DURING THE RECENT HOSTILITIES. RATHER THAN BATTLE DAMAGE, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT NUMEROUS HOMES AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS WERE DROPPED IN PLACE USING EXPLOSIVE CHARGES. MARLEY ASKED SEVERAL PEOPLE IN KIBUNGO HOW THE DESTRUCTION WAS CAUSED, AND BY WHOM. THE COMMON RESPONSE WAS THAT THE DESTRUCTION WAS CAUSED, AND BY WHOM. THE COMMON RESPONSE WAS THAT INTERHAMWE MILITIA MEMBERS INITIALLY LEVELLED HOMES AND BUSINESSES OF TUTSIS AND HUTU MODERATES, AND THAT THE RPF THEN RETALIATED FOLLOWING THEIR CAPTURE OF THE CITY BY SIMILARLY DESTROYING HOMES AND BUSINESSES BELONGING TO INTERHAMWE MEMBERS. THE LARGE NEW HOSPITAL NOW BEING OPERATED BY THE AMERICAN NGO INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DAMAGED.

5. SEVEN TANZANIAN-LICENSED TRUCKS (PICKUPS AND LIGHT TRANSPORTS) WERE MOVING INTO RWANDA ON THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN THE BORDER AND NYAKARAMBI. EACH TRUCK APPEARED TO BE CARRYING BULK FOOD (ESPECIALLY BANANAS AND BAGS OF GRAIN), BARRELS OF FUEL, AND 4-6 MALE PASSENGERS.

6. BENACO CAMP. TANZANIAN IMMIGRATION PERSONNEL (WHO ACCOMPANIED THE PARTY FROM THE FRONTIER TO BENACO REFUGEE CAMP) AND POLICE LOCATED AT BENACO INDICATED THAT THERE ARE NOW MORE THAN 400,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES IN THE CAMP. THE OFFICIALS ALSO INDICATED THAT NEW REFUGEES CONTINUE TO

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ARRIVE AT THE CAMP, BUT ESTIMATED THEIR NUMBERS AT ONLY
300 PER DAY. SIGNIFICANT, ALMOST TOTAL, DEFORESTATION OF
THE ALREADY SCANT TREE COVERAGE IN THE VICINITY OF BENACO
IS OCCURRING AS THE REFUGEES CUT THE SAPLINGS FOR COOKING
FIRES. THE SMALL LAKE/POND FROM WHICH SANITATION WATER IS
BEING FROM WHICH SANITATION WATER IS BEING DRAWN FOR THE
CAMP'S USE IS SHRINKING, AND IT APPEARS THAT IT WILL BE
DRY WITHIN 7-10 DAYS. THERE IS AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF WATER
IN THE AKAGERA RIVER (THE BORDER) SOME 6"7 MILES FROM THE

BENACO CAMP. COMMENT: IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CONSIDER
USING SOME OF THE U.S. WATER TANKER AND PURIFICATION
ASSETS POURING INTO THE REGION TO CLEAN AND DISTRIBUTE
WATER DRAWN FROM THE AKAGERA RIVER. END COMMENT.

7. ASMARA, BUJUMBURA, KHARTOUM AND LUANDA MINIMIZE
CONSIDERED. SPERO

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